Instant GARDEN

User's Manual

Welcome and congratulations on your purchase of the Instant Garden

The Instant Garden is a high performance hydroponic growing system designed with simplicity in mind. Anyone from the novice to the professional green thumb can use the Instant Garden with ease and get fantastic results.

With your Instant Garden you just fill the reservoir with water, add a weekly dose of our special SUPER HYDRO FOOD and the home hydroponic system does the rest. Instant Garden features an automatic water recycling system so you don't have to worry about watering and you don't have to pay a high water bill, because hydroponic technology uses only 10% of the water used in traditional dirt based gardening.

Plus, with the addition of the Instant Garden grow light kit using either high intensity LED grow lights, or T5 fluorescent bulbs, the Instant Garden lets you grow great tasting organic produce indoors all year long.

Amy Cooper
President / Co-Founder

Table of Contents

Caution 1

Assembly

- Parts List 2
- Step by Step Instructions 3

Pump User Guide 10

Instructions For Use

- Operation 15
- Maintenance 16
- PH Levels 17
- Troubleshooting 17

Caring For Your Seedlings 19

Super Hydro Food (Nutrients) 21

Limited One-Year Warranty 23

www.instantgarden.com
1-888-501-7521

CAUTION!

Read this material before using this product. Failure to do so can result in serious injury. **Save this manual**.

When unpacking make sure that the product is intact and undamaged. If any parts are missing or broken, please call 1-888- 501-7521 as soon as possible.

CAUTION!

The Instant Garden is a hydroponic grow system that uses water infused with nutrients to feed your plants. Inherent with any planter that uses water there is a risk of splashing, leaking, spilling or otherwise causing water to escape the system. Please take care to place your Instant Garden in a location where water spills will not cause damage.

Save this Manual.

Keep this manual for safety warnings, precautions, assembly, operating instructions, inspection, maintenance and cleaning procedures. Write the product's month and year of purchase in the back of the manual. Keep this manual and the receipt in a safe and dry location for future reference.

ASSEMBLY

Parts List

1. Reservoir (10 GAL) with lid x 1
2. Legs x 2
3. White trays x 3
4. 90º rubber fittings x 3
5. 120º rubber fittings x 2
6. 1/2" to 1/4" 90º reducer fitting x 1
7. 5/8" OD white drain hose 11.5" x 2
8. 5/8" OD white drain hose 5" x 1
9. 3/8" OD white fill hose 39" x 1
10. Submersible pump x 1
11. 500g container of Instant Garden Super Hydro Food
12. Instant Garden grow cubes x 5
14. Allen wrench x 1
15. Small screws for leg joints x 4
16. 1/4-20 1" screws and 3/4" washers x 12 (for connecting legs to reservoir)
17. Instant Garden User's Guide

Step by Step Instructions

To assemble your Instant Garden, please follow the easy step-by-step directions below. You will need a standard Phillips head screwdriver for assembly purposes.

1. Unpack all the items and locate the bag of parts. Inside the bag of parts is a smaller bag with screws and an Allen wrench.

2. Place the reservoir on-end and attach the legs to the reservoir using the twelve 1" machine screws with the 3/4" diameter washers, as Shown in **Figure 1**.

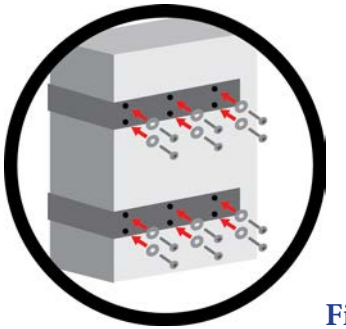


Figure 1

2.1 On the bottom of the reservoir, secure the legs to the reservoir using 12 of the 1/4-20 screws provided and a standard Phillips head screwdriver. Place the screw in the slot and thread into the holes on the underside of the reservoir.
DO NOT OVER TIGHTEN!

2.2 Align the legs with the slots in the bottom of the tray and secure. The reservoir should be flat against the bottom of the legs.

3. Locate the top and middle sections of the legs and align the holes with the threaded inserts, as Shown in **Figure 2**.

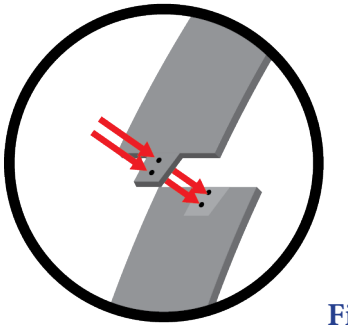


Figure 2

4. Use the Allen wrench to tighten the 4mm screws into the threaded inserts securing the two sections of legs, as seen in **Figure 3**.
DO NOT OVER TIGHTEN!

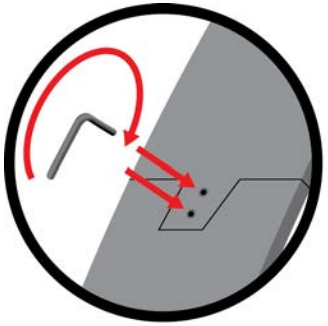


Figure 3

5. Locate the steel clip, as seen in **Figure 4**.

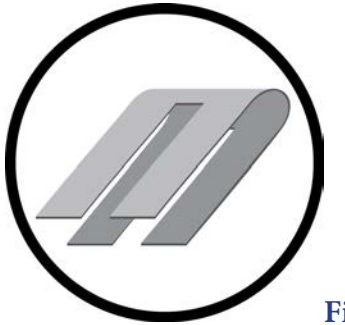


Figure 4

6. Slip the steel clip over the joint between the top and middle leg sections, as seen in **Figure 5**. This will secure the two sections of the legs together.

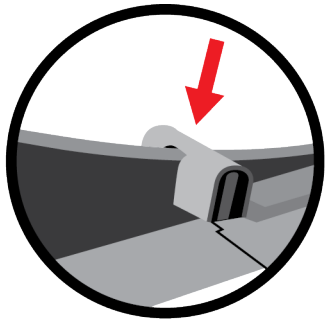


Figure 5

7. The lid fits on top of the reservoir with the two slots fitting over the leg gussets.

8. Locate the three white growing trays and snap them into the legs, as seen in **Figure 6**.

Figure 6

9. Locate the 39” long 3/8” hose and insert the end with the fitting into the 1/2” hole on the left side of the top tray, as seen in **Figure 7**.

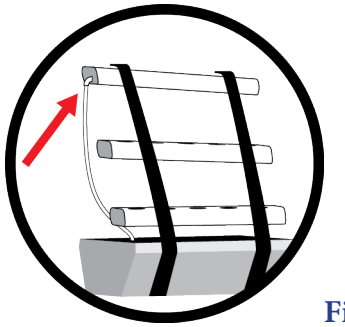


Figure 7

10. Put the other end of the 36” long 3/8” hose through the 3/8” hole in the middle left of the reservoir lid, as seen in **Figure 8**.

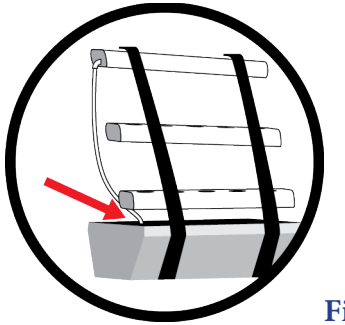


Figure 8

11. The pump is included in the parts bag. Push the hose over the 1/4" fitting on top of the pump. Once connected, place the pump upright in the reservoir, securing it with the suction cups. Use one of the two holes in the rear of the reservoir for the power cord on the pump.
Note: Make sure the pump is secured to the reservoir floor and not supported by the power cord or the 3/8" hose.

12. Locate the two 12" long, 5/8" drain hoses. Insert the 120 degree rubber fitting in the 1/2" hole on the right side of the top tray, as seen in **Figure 9**.

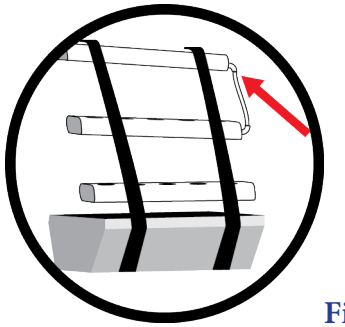


Figure 9

13. Insert the 90 degree rubber fitting located on the opposite end of the drain hose in the 1/2" hole located on the right side of the middle tray, as seen in **Figure 10**.

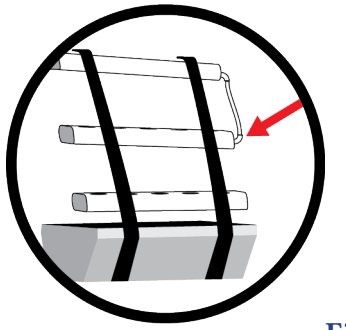


Figure 10

14. Repeat this process with the second drain hose going from the 1/2" hole on the left side of the middle tray to the 1/2" hole on the left side of the bottom tray. Make sure you use the 120 degree rubber fitting on the top tray and the 90 degree fitting on the bottom tray, as seen in **Figure 11**.

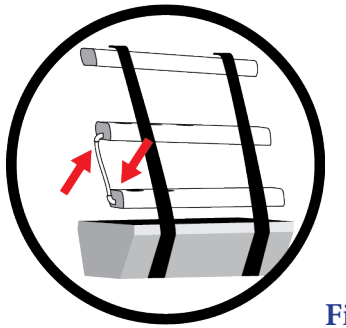


Figure 11

15. The final drain hose goes from the 1/2" hole on the left side of the bottom tray to the 5/8" hole on the lid of the reservoir. Insert

the 90 degree rubber fitting into the 1/2” hole in the tray and put the other end of the hose through the 5/8” hole on the reservoir lid directly below, as seen in **Figure 12**.

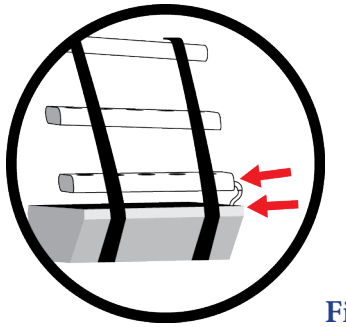


Figure 12

PUMP USER GUIDE

WARNING: Read this material before using this product. Failure to do so can result in serious injury. SAVE this manual.

When unpacking make sure that the product is intact and undamaged. If any parts are missing or broken, please call 1-888-501-7521 as soon as possible.

Before Plugging in the Pump

The plug must have a supply voltage of 120v at 60Hz. The pump can be connected to any plug with a Ground Fault Interrupt (GFCI Plug) which has been installed according to local and national electrical code.

Caution

The pump has been evaluated for use with clear water and fully soluble nutrients. Do not use in or around swimming pools. Do not use with dirty water or nutrients that are not 100% soluble.

WARNING:

IMPORTANT! For your own safety, before turning on the pump the pump, please have the following items checked by an expert:

1. To reduce the risk of electrical shock, only use the pump that comes with your Instant Garden Grow System.
2. Risk of electric shock. This pump is supplied with a grounding conductor and grounding-type attachment plug. To reduce the risk of electric shock, connect only to a properly grounded plug.
3. Risk of electric shock. This pump has not been tested in applications other than with the Instant Garden Hydroponic Grow System.
4. The electrical connections must be protected from moisture.

5. If there is a danger of flooding, the electrical connections must be moved to higher ground.
6. Circulation of caustic fluids, as well as the circulation of abrasive materials, must be avoided at all costs.
7. The pump must be protected from frost.
8. The pump must be protected from running dry.
9. Access by children should be prevented with appropriate measures.
10. To avoid the possibility of the pump plug or receptacle getting wet, keep plug and receptacle off the ground and/or anywhere near the reservoir. This also applies to any extension cords used.

    WARNING: Handling the power cord on this unit will expose you to lead, a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer, and birth defects or other reproductive harm. Wash hands after handling. (California Health and Safety Code 25249.5, et seq.)
11. The warnings, precautions, and instructions discussed in this instruction guide cannot cover all possible conditions and situations that may occur. It must be understood by the operator that common sense and caution are factors that must be supplied by the operator.

Pump Fluid Type - Water Only

The pump is designed for use with fresh water with a maximum temperature of 77 degrees F (25 degrees C). Do not use in hot water. Do not use the pump for other fluids, especially not fuels, cleaning fluids, or other chemical products. Your Instant Garden works best with a water temperature between 60-75 degrees F (16-24 degrees C)

Keep this manual for safety warnings and precautions, assembly, operating, inspection, maintenance and cleaning procedures.

Installation

1. The pump is designed to be used in the Instant Garden Hydroponic Grow System.
2. The pump must be placed on the bottom of the reservoir. To ensure the pump work properly, keep the bottom of the reservoir free from sludge and dirt of all kinds.
3. For proper cooling of the pump, only operate the pump when it is completely submerged.

Pump Power Supply

1. The pump is equipped with a shock-proof plug according to regulations. The pump is designed to be connected to **120volts at 60 Hz GFCI protected safety socket**.
2. Make sure that the socket is sufficiently secured and in excellent condition.
3. When the plug is inserted into the socket the pump will operate.

WARNING! If the power cord or plug is damaged in any way, do not use the pump. The power cord may only be repaired by a certified electrician.

Pump Operation

Set the pump on a level spot in the reservoir. The suction cups must be in contact with the reservoir floor.

NOTE: Do not plug in pump yet.

CAUTION: Verify pump is secured to the reservoir floor and not supported by the power cord or the 3/8” hose. Do not use the hose to support the pump.

4. Once the pump is fully submerged and adequately supported, shift the regulator to adjust the flow rate.

5. **NOTE:** After reading these instructions, and **before starting the pump**, consider the following points:

   a. Verify that the pump rests on the floor of the reservoir and is not suspended by the power cord or the attached hose to the top tray.

   b. Verify that the electrical connection is 120v 60Hz GFCI protected safety socket.

   c. Verify that the electrical socket is in good condition.

   d. Verify that the water and moisture cannot get near the power supply socket or any extension cord connections.

   e. Verify that the pump is installed to prevent it from running dry.

6. Once you've verified that the pump is properly setup, **dry your hands** and plug the power cord into the electrical outlet to begin pump operation.

Pump General Maintenance

WARNING: TO PREVENT SERIOUS INJURY FROM ACCIDENTAL OPERATION: Unplug the pump from its electrical outlet before performing any inspection or maintenance, or cleaning procedures.

If the pump is moved to a different reservoir, flush it out with clean water and dry before setting up in a new reservoir.

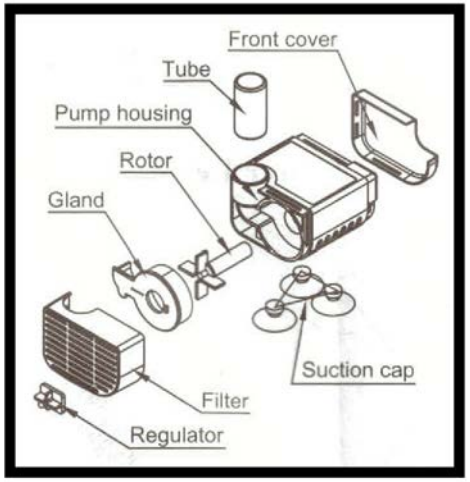
If the cord is damaged it must be replaced by a qualified electrician.

Pump Quarterly Maintenance

Note: Make sure the power cord is unplugged before performing any maintenance or cleaning.

The below maintenance should be performed at least once every 3 months under optimal conditions. If pump starts to sound abnormal, unplug it and check the impeller by doing the following:

1. Remove the front cover and filter/regulator.
2. Gently pull out the Impeller(rotor) from the pump body(housing).
3. Rinse Impeller assembly with clean water. Use an old toothbrush to remove any debris.
4. To prevent damage, do not rest the pump on the Impeller or pry against the Impeller.
5. Once clean, reassemble pump.



INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Instant Garden Operating Instructions

1. Assemble the Instant Garden per the instructions in the Assembly Guide provided.
2. Place the Instant Garden in a location that has adequate sunlight for the plants you are growing. Different plants need different amounts of sunlight. Most plants do well in direct sunlight while others do well with partial shading.
3. **NOTE:** Do not place your Instant Garden in a location where water damage would cause a problem. The best place for the Instant Garden is on a concrete, tile or treated wood patio or on dirt or grass.
4. The reservoir should be filled to the fill line at 10 gallons of fresh, clean water. The Instant Garden works best with a water temperature between 60-75 degrees F (16-24 degrees C).
5. Any nutrients added should be 100% water soluble and not have any large particles which could cause the pump or fill/drain hoses to clog.
6. Make sure there is sufficient water in the reservoir at all times to cover the pump by filling to the 10 gallon fill line. The pump will malfunction if left only partially submerged or run dry. **Keep the pump totally submerged at all times.**
7. When the reservoir is full of water and the nutrients have been added its time to turn on your system and test the flow. Nutrient water should pump up the 3/8" fill hose to the top tray and begin to fill that tray. Once the top tray is filled the nutrient water will drain down the second tray through the 5/8" drain hose. The nutrient water will then drain to the third tray and finally back into the reservoir.
8. Once the water flow has been successfully tested, you can insert the seedling baskets into the trays. The baskets have an angled bottom. The lower part of the basket goes to the rear of the tray. Insert the tray and twist-lock the basket into place by rotating the basket to the right until it stops.

Pump Maintenance

WARNING: TO PREVENT SERIOUS INJURY FROM ACCIDENTAL OPERATION: Unplug the pump from its electrical outlet before performing any inspection or maintenance, or cleaning procedures.

Pump Quarterly Maintenance

Maintenance should be performed at least once every **3 months** under optimal conditions.

1. **Note: Make sure the power cord is unplugged before performing any maintenance or cleaning.**
2. Lid of the reservoir.
3. Remove the 3/8" hose from the fitting on the top tray and direct the used nutrient water into a bucket, on the grass or dirt or some other safe location to drain out the water. Alternately you can dump the reservoir but only after the baskets and plants have been removed from the trays.
4. Rinse the reservoir and use a soft brush to clean any sediment, debris, sludge or algae from the reservoir.
5. If the trays are empty they can be removed and cleaned as well.
6. Once clean, reassemble the Instant Garden, refill the reservoir with fresh, clean water and add nutrients.

PH Levels

The optimal PH level for hydroponic growing is between 5.5 and 6.5 PH. Most municipal water will be around 7.0 PH and that PH will decrease to the optimal range once the nutrients are added to the water.

1. If you want to test the PH level of your Instant Garden, PH strips can be ordered on our website. You can also purchase an electronic pen PH tester through the Instant Garden website (www.instantgarden.com).

2. **If you have PH testing strips:** In order to test your PH, fill your reservoir with fresh clean water. Use a PH test strip to test PH both before and after you add your nutrients. If your PH, after adding nutrients, is above 7.0 you may want to purchase some PH Down solution from the Instant Garden web site (www.instantgarden.com). Alternately, you can use distilled white vinegar to lower the PH of your nutrient water. Try 1-2 scoops and retest.

Instant Garden Troubleshooting

For the best performance of your Instant Garden take note of these helpful tips.

1. Drooping plants typically means there is a problem with the nutrient water flow. Yellowing leaves typically means a PH problem. Discoloration of the leaves, particularly and the tips of the leaves, typically means too much nutrients.

2. In order to test your PH fill your reservoir with fresh, clean water. Use a PH test strip to test PH both before and after you add your nutrients. If your PH after adding nutrients is above 7.0 you may want to purchase some PH Down solution from the Instant Garden web site. Alternately, you can use distilled white vinegar to lower the PH of your nutrient water. Try 1-2 tablespoons and retest.

3. PH test strips which can be reordered from the Instant Garden Web site. You can also purchase an electronic pen PH Tester through the Instant Garden website.

4. As with any outdoor garden, your plants will be susceptible to insects. Because the Instant Garden does not use any dirt, you won't have problems with dirt based bugs but there is the potential of flying or crawling insect to affect your Instant Garden. We recommend any of the fine organic insecticides you can find at your local garden center or most home improvement stores.

5. Water temperature is important. Your Instant Garden will work best with a water temperature between 60 and 75 degrees F (16-24 degrees C). If your Instant Garden is in full sunlight in a hot environment you may have to find a cooler place. Some plants will not be affected while other plants require cooler water temperatures.

6. Depending upon outside temperatures and the type of crops, a full reservoir should last 1-2 weeks. During hotter months and/or as the plants get larger, they will require more water and nutrients at an accelerated rate. We recommend checking water levels once a week during cooler temperatures and twice a week during hotter temperatures. As your plants grow they use up what nutrients they need and the remaining nutrients as well as salts can accumulate in your reservoir. You will want to empty and clean your reservoir every 2-4 weeks as it is convenient to insure the best growth of your garden.

7. Make sure the Instant Garden is level. If the pump is on and water is flowing to the top tray, but not adequately to the second and third trays, the Instant Garden may not be level.

CARING FOR YOUR SEEDLINGS

Upon receipt of your Instant Garden seedlings, there are some important steps to follow

1. Open box immediately and carefully remove the Shippers from the cardboard box.
2. Remove any tape and open the clear cover attached to the black bottom tray.
3. Instant Garden Seedlings all come with a plant stake with information about the variety of your Instant Garden Seedling.
4. Remove each seedling from the bottom tray carefully by grabbing the Instant Garden Basket and gently pulling out. DO NOT PULL ON THE PLANT ITSELF!
5. Water the seedlings thoroughly.
6. If you are planting your seedlings immediately go to step 8. Otherwise, you may replace them into the bottom black tray after they have been watered. It is important to keep the rock wool cubes moist but not saturated with water. DO NOT FILL THE TRAY UP WITH WATER. The moist cubes can stay in the tray but be sure to water regularly to ensure they will not dry out. It is fine to leave them here for a week or more, providing you water them every day, possibly twice a day.
7. NOTE: In the cooler months, if temperatures are at or below 45 overnight, bring the seedlings inside but put them back outside the next day. When you are ready to transplant them to your Instant Garden follow steps below.
8. It is important to place your plants in the Instant Garden so that the bigger plants will not block or impede the smaller plants. We suggest you place the plants that will grow bigger, like squash, cucumber, tomato, etc., in the bottom tray. Plants that will stay smaller, like greens and smaller herbs, should be grown in the middle or top tray.
9. Plant your seedlings directly in your Instant Garden. During the summer months, plant your seedlings **IN THE EVENING**. The extreme heat and nutrients can be a little overwhelming for a seedling that has spent a few days in a box! Ensure the rockwool is touching the bottom of the Instant Garden Basket. If it is not, the seedling will not get watered.
10. Make sure you have followed the directions in your Instant Garden Growing Guide for filling the reservoir, adding nutrients, and balancing the pH.
11. Most importantly, Have FUN watching your garden grow!

NUTRIENTS

Super Hydro Food

Application Rates:

New Reservoir (10 Gallons): 3 scoops
Add Weekly: 2 scoops

We recommend you replace the water in your reservoir every 2-4 weeks depending on the health of your plants.

Store in a cool, dry location.

Total Nitrogen (N)	12%
4% Ammonical Nitrogen	
8% Nitrate Nitrogen	
Available Phosphate (P_2O_5)	12%
Soluble Potash (K_2O)	12%
Calcium (Ca)	3.5%
Magnesium (Mg)	0.8%
Sulfur (S)	1.5%
Boron (B)	0.05%
Copper (Cu)	0.05%
Iron (Fe)	0.2%
Manganese (Mn)	0.6%
Molybdenum (Mo)	0.0005%
Zinc (Zn)	0.1%

Derived from: Potassium Nitrate, Calcium Chloride, Ammonium Phosphate, Potassium Phosphate, Magnesium Sulfate, Ammonium Nitrate, Iron EDTA, Manganese EDTA, Zinc EDTA, Copper EDTA, Sodium Molybdate, Boric Acid.

CAUTION: Keep nutrients out of reach of children. Do not ingest nutrients internally!

Information regarding the contents and levels of metals in this product is available at www.aapfco.org/metals.htm

LIMITED ONE-YEAR WARRANTY

1. Mobile Farming Systems, Inc. ("Warrantor"), whose address is 970 West Foothill Blvd., Azusa, CA 91702, warrants that the product described in this warranty is free from defects in workmanship and materials for a period of one (1) year.

2. This warranty extends to the original purchaser of the product warranted under this warranty.

3. This warranty covers the "Instant Garden" product and each of its component parts, except for the water pump. Warranty coverage for the water pump is covered by the manufacturer. You will find the water pump manufacturer's warranty with the literature supplied.

4. In the event of a defect, malfunction, or other failure of the product not caused by any misuse, damage, or normal wear and tear to the product while in the possession of the consumer, the Warrantor will remedy the failure or defect, without charge to the consumer, within ninety (90) days. The remedy will consist of repair or replacement of the product, or refund of the purchase price, at the Warrantor's option. However, the Warrantor will not elect refund unless it is unable to provide replacement and repair is not commercially practicable and cannot be made within the time for performance, or unless the consumer is willing to accept the refund.

5. If the product or one of its component parts contains a defect or malfunction, after a reasonable number of attempts by the Warrantor to remedy the defects or malfunctions, the consumer is entitled to either a refund or replacement of the product or its component part or parts. Replacement of a component part includes its free installation.

6. The term of this warranty begins on the date of purchase of the product by the consumer, and continues for a period of one (1) year.

7. Failure to follow any restrictions or warnings supplied with the product shall make this warranty null and void and of no further effect.

8. To obtain performance of any obligation under this warranty, the consumer must contact Mobile Farming Systems, Inc. at 970 West Foothill Blvd., Azusa, CA 91702. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Customer Service at 1-888-501-7521.

9. IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING ANY WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, IMPOSED ON THE SALE OF THE INSTANT GARDEN PRODUCT UNDER STATE LAW, ARE LIMITED TO ONE (1) YEAR DURATION FOR THE PRODUCT AND ANY OF ITS COMPONENT PARTS. SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW LIMITATIONS ON HOW LONG AN IMPLIED WARRANTY LASTS, SO THE ABOVE LIMITATION MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU.

10. THE WARRANTOR SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF THE USE OR OWNERSHIP OF THE INSTANT GARDEN PRODUCT. SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW THE EXCLUSION OR LIMITATION OF INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, SO THE ABOVE LIMITATION OR EXCLUSION MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU.

11. This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights that vary from State to State.

Notes

Instant
GARDEN

970 West Foothill Blvd.
Azusa, CA 91702

1-888-501-7521

www.instantgarden.com